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CLEVELAND, TENN., JULY 14, 1923

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Now is The Time For Every True Blue, Red Blooded Church of God Member to Stand Together Letters and Petitions are Being Circulated to Overthrow and Disannul the Actions of the General Assemblies of 1921 and 1922. Beware, Stand Still Until You Know the Facts !

THE CONSTITUTION

We are very sorry to learn that in some parts and with certain individuals, that the question of our constitution adopted by the General Assembly in 1921, has become a question for discussion, rather than them giving it their loyal support and adhering to the principles of the Church of God, as outlined by the various assemblies of which these parties were a part and some of them more responsible for its existence than any one else. It is not my purpose in this article to produce an argument in its favor so much as it is to loyally support the actions of the General Assembly, until they see fit to make such amendments or repeals as in their wisdom they may deem best. However, it does become necessary to make some explanations, in order that our readers may be informed on the subject so prematurely introduced.

No loyal minister, or representative of the Church of God in its present organized form, can afford to open up for discussion in his local churches, a subject which the General Assembly alone is authorized to handle, and to condemn and criticize the actions of the General Assembly in such a manner, prior to the hour set for discussion in the General Assembly. This has in the past been declared seditious and disloyal.

Just recently I received a letter from a friend of the Church of God, who heard a certain Church of God minister preach. He made the statement "that he could not take folks into the Church and tell them that the Church of God takes the New Testament for their guide and government. Since, at the Assembly of 1921, some men in some way had by enticing words, slipped a form of government over them, that was of man's opinion. And he said that he was taking a strong stand against it and wanted all the church members to do likewise, and try to do a way with such stuff. Now I think a lot of the Church of God, although I am a sinner, nevertheless I would like to know the truth about these things. From what I have heard in a round about way, leads me to believe that you are one of the men that introduced such government. Now, you know that I have become acquainted with you in a business way, and there is not a doubt in my mind that you would do anything but the right. So I would like for you to give me a little explanation on this form of man's government that has crept into the church." These words from one quotation mark to the other is a copy of the letter received. Now this refers to the constitution adopted at the General Assembly in 1921. For the information of our readers, I will give some explanation as to the origin and adoption of this constitution.

At the Elders Council that convened Sept. 20-26, 1921, after some preliminary comment on a decision of the court, and the attack of attorneys that we had no constitution, it was suggested that a constitution be framed. This met with the hearty approval of the General Overseer and all the twelve elders. It was further decided to appoint a committee to frame the constitution. After this suggestion prevailed, the General Overseer proceeded to make the appointments, which was as follows: M. S. Lemons, F. J. Lee and J. S. Llewellyn. After the adjournment of the Council this committee proceeded with their work in all good faith, believing that they were faithfully discharging their duties and appreciating the honor of serving the Church under the appointment of its General Overseer. They completed their task in time for the next General Assembly, which convened Nov. 2-8, 1921. Before the constitution was introduced to the General Assembly, the General Overseer called the Council of twelve elders to convene in the south room on the third floor of the Church of God auditorium, where the work of this committee was carefully considered. Article by article, section by section of the constitution was carefully gone over. This was done, Tuesday A. M., Nov. 9, 1921. It was there agreed by the General Overseer and the twelve elders to present this document to the General Assembly, which was done and unanimously passed by the Assembly. I will say further that if there were one party more responsible for the adoption of this constitution than another, it was the General Overseer. The minutes of the Elders Council as kept by the General Secretary will verify the statements made in this article.

This constitution does not in any wise change the teachings, government, principles or practices of the Church of God, but is a brief mention and collection together of the actions of the General Assemblies from time to time, and so declares that the General Assembly has the right in article one, section four "to search out the Bible plans of government and discipline and interpret the same." Also declares that the form of government shall be theocratic. It would be well, however, for the reader to carefully consider and find the difference in a theocracy and an autocracy.

I will say that I never heard of any objections to the constitution nor any of its provisions, prior to the day that I called the attention of the General Overseer to Article 6, Section 2. It has later developed that this was very recklessly disregarded and very seriously violated. It is admitted that approximately \$27,000 dollars (twenty-seven thousand dollars) has been used

in violation of this article and section referred to.

His attention was also called to Article six, Section 4 which reads "It shall be the duty of all persons entrusted with finance, belonging to the Church of God for any purpose as treasurer of said church, to deposit the same in a reliable bank to the credit of the Church of God." This was also violated as he was at that time depositing funds belonging to the Church to his own credit. It was his practice (with very little exception) to deposit all the funds in his own name. This had been objected to from time to time for years.

I am sure that no good business man will find any objection to such a provision, which is only designed to protect the interest of the Church and its friends.

Your attention is especially called to the expression in the constitution "It is and shall be," which is intended to express that this provision is already in full force and effect and is to continue, however, the provisions are made for such amendments from time to time as the General Assembly may deem necessary. There is nothing in it that is calculated to take from any individual his rightful privileges, but there are provisions in it to regulate the affairs of the Church, which we deem very necessary. I do admit, however, that without any government or regulation, every fellow would be free to do as he pleased which is contrary to our government and teaching. I will say further that there is nothing in the article that in any wise changes or effects the government, or teaching of the Church of God, that is not agreed and passed by the General Assembly in its regular sessions.

It has been so decided by the most competent judges that customs and practices establish constitution and laws. In view of this fact we had just as much a constitution prior to 1921 as we have had since. It was more in a scattered form, however, and this article serves to bring it together in a brief form easy to be understood and complied with by those who have no other aim or purpose in view than to do right. I will admit, however, that it is hard on people who want to do wrong and easy on those who wish to do right.

Every action of the General Assembly from its earliest history has served to create and establish a constitution. Now to undertake to put over an action to disannul and declare void the constitution would serve to undermine and wreck the entire organization and we would be a scattered people unconstituted sure enough.

The writer cherishes the pleasant feeling of willingness to submit to the brethren when they come together in the General Assembly, as we are taught to submit ourselves one to the other in the fear of God. I will say further that if something can be substituted that

will be better and serve a greater purpose and enable the Church of God to spread and prove a greater blessing to the world in the salvation of the lost, I would most cheerfully submit. I am of the opinion that we should retain what we have until something better can be substituted.

Your attention is especially called to a portion of the General Overseer's annual address at the General Assembly in 1921 on page 27 under the subhead, ANCHORED. From this you will readily understand that whatever honor there may be attached to this proceeding, that we all deserve a share and whatever blame there may be, we are all to equally share from the fact that we all heartily approved it, and it passed the General Assembly with shouts of approval. Then we all thought we had done something great.

ANCHORED

"Since we are living in the last days when every weapon available to the enemy will be aimed at the Church of God, it is necessary for us to see that every Scriptural protection is thrown around it for protection. We have been carefully and prayerfully wending our way along through the shades of the early dawn, and it is marvelous to some of us as the day breaks to find we have not missed the mark so far after all. But every year we take special pains to go over every department and see if there is any way to strengthen any part of the great ship—the Church of God.

A basket may be a basket, but stays can be added to make the basket stronger. A house may be a house but braces and stays may be added to make it more secure against storms. In some places there are no severe storms and a house does not need so much bracing. But where these terrible cyclones sweep the country one does not feel secure in a little plank house with no braces in it. The time has been when the plank house experience was alright, but now it is necessary to have the very best timbers in place and be anchored in a manner that all the winds from the depths of hell turned loose on the building will never cause it to shake or rock about. The anchorage must be of the very best and strongest material, and the anchors themselves made both sure and steadfast.

This subject will be given more extensive consideration by one of the speakers who will probably disclose some of the fastenings needed to make the great ship so secure that hell's fiercest storms beating against it will be nothing more than the gentle breezes of mid-summer time. Instead of shattering and breaking with their furious blasts, they will only be refreshing and buoyant in their effect. And such is the Church of God against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. With its full constitution or system of fundamental laws properly displayed it will consider the fiercest on-

A MESSAGE OF WARNING

It is with a feeling of the deepest regret that we send out this note of warning for our people to stand still and consider well before they become a party to some schemes that are being planned and undertaken to put into operation. I am fully aware of the fact that good honest hearted saints can be deceived, or influenced to do things that they would afterward regret. Just within the last few months, there was a petition circulated among our people, and many of them signed it, not understanding the real situation. Since that time many have written in, asking that their names be erased in order that they would not be a party to such a scheme. One state overseer representing his entire state insisted that every name from his state be removed. Other requests have come from almost every direction.

Within the last few days from almost every direction, we have received letters requesting information, and telling us of other petitions that were being circulated, requesting the local churches to come together and have all that were

slaughters of the enemy nothing more than play things and will playfully laugh at the hottest, hardest, fiercest belchings from the depths of hell with the millions of demons sending forth their fiery darts and most furious explosives. I fancy I hear her say, as a strong charge is made against her, "Ha, ha, ha, come again if you want to, it is only play for me. No weapon that is formed against me shall prosper, and these thrusts by your satanic hosts only brighten me up so I will shine more brilliantly." Then I can imagine the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy as he sang, "Thy watchman shall lift up the voice, with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord has comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God."

I feel reasonably sure that after due and prayerful consideration, if the brethren find they have made a mistake in adopting the article known and called the constitution that they would be just as willing to correct it as they were to pass it. This, however, could not be done legally until the convening of the General Assembly, where all parties interested should enjoy equal privileges in the discussions and actions taken. I am sure that there is not a people on earth that want to do right more than true loyal Church of God members. However, it is the opinion of some, that this issue is raised in order to cloud more serious matters. STAND STILL AND KNOW THE REASON WHY!

willing to stand by the teaching of the Church of God up to 1920 with Brother A. J. Tomlinson as General Overseer, with the New Testament as their rule and discipline, to sign a list and have it all ready by July 22. Also to send the title of the tithes and freewill offerings to Brother A. J. Tomlinson, 2525 Gaut St., Cleveland, Tenn. Now, Brother Tomlinson, claims that this is not done by his consent or authority. If this be true, something else must be done, as such a move as this has here before been branded as seditious and disloyal and many have been excluded from the Church for less offenses than the ones mentioned above.

All the churches are advised to make their reports and send the title of the tithes to E. J. Boehmer, General Secretary of the Church of God, Cleveland, Tenn. This is in harmony and according to the provisions made by the General Assembly in its annual session.

I am sure that I am not asking too much of you just to hold steady and delay any action on your part until you are in possession of all the facts. Then you will be able to reach your own conclusions without the influence of another, or any outside interference. I do this because of my love and friendship for the Church of God and its members. Also because I am thoroughly convinced that a very embarrassing situation will develop should such a move materialize.

We are at a loss to know just why these parties concerned in such a move would undertake to blot out two years history of the Church of God, unless there has been some very serious happenings on their part that they want cleared away. To say the least of it, it is sufficient ground for our readers to investigate for themselves and know the reason why. Those who are in possession of first hand information, will admit that there has been the most reckless use and abuse of power, and misapplication of funds within the last two years that has ever occurred before.

It would be well for you before signing or obligating yourself in any way to inquire and know the truth about the misapplication of approximately \$27,000.00 of tithe money, which according to the long cherished principle was for the ministry only. This appears in the minutes of the early history of the Church, also in the constitution of the Church. It would also be well for you to inquire about the misapplication of \$3,973.23 of Orphanage money, that was contributed by those who were in deep sympathy with the precious little homeless children, under the solemn and printed obligation that it would be applied according to the purpose for which it

(Continued on page 2)

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J. S. Llewellyn,

SPECIAL NOTICE

"This publication is maintained by and in the interest of the Church of God."

Address all communications relating to the paper or any of our publications, and all drafts, checks, express and postal orders payable to The Church of God Publishing House, Cleveland, Tennessee.

INFORMATION—If you change your address you should promptly notify us, giving the old and new address.

When you renew your subscription please say "renewal." When you subscribe, please say "new subscriber."

Always write names and addresses PLAINLY. If we fail to get your name or address right please notify us and we will take pleasure in making the correction.

Address all freight, express, parcels post, drafts, checks, express and postal orders relating to Orphanage work to The Church of God Orphanage, Cleveland, Tennessee.

We will do our best to keep from making mistakes, but if we make a mistake we will take pleasure in correcting it if you notify us.

We invite all the workers to send us reports of interest from the battlefield. If nothing else a postal card telling where you are this week.

Help us make the Evangel a medium of information as well as a spiritual blessing.

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All Day Meeting SUNDAY, JULY 29

Dinner on the Ground!

At Dividing Ridge Church !!
Soddy, Route 3

Speakers J. S. Llewellyn 11 00 a.m.
F. J. Lee 1 30 p.m.

A General Good Time is Expected
Revival to Begin at That Time!

EVERYBODY WELCOME

W. F. BRYANT, PASTOR

His Yoke is Easy and His Burden Light

"Carest thou not that we perish," Matt. 4:38, was the anxious words of the disciples as they were tossing on the angry waves of Galilee. The waves had beaten into the ship so that it was now full. They began to call on the Master, for they saw they were in danger. They could do no more, they had gone to the limit of their strength. The storm was still raging, and the billows of water coming in. They thought in a few moments more they would all sink beneath the waves. But, praise the Lord, the Master of the ocean and sea and sky was on the boat, and it could not sink while He was there. When the disciples called upon Him he awoke and rebuked the winds and there was a calm.

Yes, hallelujah, when our frail bodies are wrecked and tossed by the storms and trials of this life, we can call on Jesus and He is ever ready to help us. But too often I presume we wait until our frail boat is ready to sink, before we call in earnest for help from the Master who is able to calm a troubled sea.

But oh, how sweet and peaceful the moments when we really lay our burdens down at Jesus' feet and He takes them away and speaks to the troubled heart where the billows of despair are raging. Yes, glory to His precious name, we can then feel the glory as He lifts the flood gates of heaven and our souls are bathed in the glorious light, joy and peace. Oh, what a wonderful Saviour we have. Yes, He cares, for it is not His will that any should perish, but that all should have eternal life.

Dear ones, let us all take new courage. No matter how heavy the burden, Jesus can lift the load. His way is easy and best. Hear Him as He lovingly calls to you who are unsaved, "Come unto me all ye that are

heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Yes, poor sin sick soul, if any of you read this, flee to Jesus, the Rock of Ages, and He will give you rest.

Get acquainted with Jesus for He is meek and lowly in heart. And ye shall find rest for your souls. Hallelujah, for He says, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

I am so glad I took Jesus as my burden bearer over seventeen years ago. I find Him always a present help in time of trouble and afflictions of any kind. Oh, how near He is even when our own nearest and dearest ones can't understand, Jesus does. Glory to His name. He can soothe the troubled heart and give us peace that passeth understanding, but it takes a close walk. We must keep our eyes on Jesus and nestle close to His loving breast and obey His blessed will at all times. God bless you all. If we obey we can't sit down in idleness, but must be up and busy in some part of His vineyard. We can all pray and if there ever were a time we needed to pray for more laborers it seems it is now as perilous times and wickedness are abounding more and more.

The Lord says when the enemy comes in like a flood He will raise up a standard against him and the blessed old time holy gospel is the standard, Hallelujah.

A sister praying for the lost,
Callie D. Lowery,
Thomasville, Ala.

NOTICE

A revival will begin near Pretoria, Ga., July 15, D. V. If any one would like to come and help us we give you a hearty invitation. Saints, pray for this to be a real soul harvesting time. Your brother in the Master's service,
Reuben H. Martin,
Statesboro, Ga.

REQUESTS

S. E. Blackley requests the saints to earnestly pray for the Lord to heal his son.

Callie Watson, Williston, Fla., asks the saints to help them pray for a revival at Williston.

Mrs. M. H. Grant, Bonifay, Fla., is suffering intensely and wants the saints to pray for the Lord to heal her.

Emma Newman, Columbus, Ga., wants the saints to earnestly pray for her healing. Also pray for the church there.

Mrs. John A. Beck, Indianapolis, Ind., requests earnest prayer for her husband. He has a cancer on his lip.

Georgia Dickerson, Schoolfield, Va., requests the saints to earnestly pray for her healing and that she may be sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost.

Mrs. M. F. Blackwell, Ellsville, Miss., asks the saints to pray for a Holiness preacher to come there and hold a meeting. Also pray that she may receive the Holy Ghost and that her family will be saved.

Pauline Jackson, Walhalla, S. C., requests prayer for her father that he may receive light on the Church. Also pray for her Sunday school class and for her to teach them in a way that will cause every one to seek the Lord.

NOTICES

We would like for a Church of God minister to come here and hold a meeting.

Maggie Haskins,
P. O. Box 26, Bassett, Ark.

A meeting will commence at Thorn, Miss., July 30. Everybody is invited to come. If you can't come pray for the meeting.
Sevellar Moore,
Thorn, Miss.

I would like to hear from some members of the Church of God that are living on the S. F. R. R. between Davis and Oklahoma City. I am expecting to move this fall.
K. S. Loveless,
Bear Creek, Ala.

I want to rent a large gospel tent for one month to conduct a revival. Will pay reasonable rent. If you can help me out, let me hear from you at once.
Yours in Christ,
D. Tidwell,
Jasper, Fla.

We will commence a revival at Archers Fork, Ohio, July 14. All who want to help are invited. We will give them good homes to stay in while the meeting is going on. Saints, pray for the meeting.
Clarence Beagle,
Dencher, Ohio.

I am a young man 18 years of age and would like to be out in the vineyard of the Lord. If any one needs help I would like to hear from them. I can pray, sing and talk some and work at the altar. I prefer being in tent meetings.
Jonah Perry,
Box 78, Greenville, N. C.

A revival will begin at Trafford, Ala., July 14, 1923. Brother W. S. Wilemon and wife will be in charge. Brother Clyde Dodd and Sister Jones will have charge of the singing. Everybody is invited to attend. Saints, pray for God to save souls.
Mary L. Simpson, pastor.

We would like for a Church of God minister or evangelist to come to Indianapolis, Ind., and help us start a work here. We have a little means so we can help to start a mission. Pray over it.
Your brother and sister in the Lord,
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Beck,
516 N. Alabama,
Indianapolis, Ind.

I have a fine Taunton double Manual reed organ for sale. This is one of the finest chapel organs made. It has a double keyboard, with a hand pump, also foot pedals. It looks like a pipe organ and is pipe toned. It has a beautiful case, looks almost like new. The price when it was new was \$1,000.00 My price is \$225.00 cash, or \$250.00; \$100.00 cash payment and 20.00 per month. This is one of the best bargains in one of the largest reed pipe toned organs made. No church will make a mistake by buying this instrument, as this is no junk but really a fine organ. For further particulars address
S. F. Beard,
Box 98, Nashville, Tenn.

INFLUENCED

F. J. Lee

Has F. J. Lee been influenced? Yes, he has. But I wonder what did it? I know it has been said that when old Tray turned to be a naughty dog it was because he had been in bad company. F. J. Lee, the writer of this article, feels that he has more sense than old Tray, the dog. He feels that he at least has horse sense.

I will say that since being sanctified I have never yielded to the wrong influence of men though I have been thrown into bad company a few times. I have always felt that I had self-composure and self-restraint enough about me to stand against ordinary influences that God allows to come against men. He has promised that we shall not be tempted above that we are able to bear. So by the grace of God I have been an overcomer since the day I became identified with the Church of God. I love the Church of God, have preached the Church of God over the country and at the Assembly on many occasions and I still love the Church. I have never thought of throwing down her principles and going to another church.

Paul saw some letting down a boat to flee from the ship. He said, "except you abide with the ship ye cannot be saved." This was during the great storm at sea. It seems that a storm is on now. Some may run to the little boats, but there are some Pauls that expect to stay by the thing though many weights may have to be thrown overboard.

Yes, I'm Influenced

In the first place I have a great desire to do right. I want to go to see the Lord some day, and I want to meet Him with the consciousness that I have done right. The thought has come to my mind a few times, "Shall I write some facts in the paper concerning the affairs of the church etc? I have invariably said, "no, not yet," but today after getting some letters from some good and faithful ministers of God stating that they had received letters from officials requesting that they call their church together and take action to denounce the actions of the last two assemblies, and to get this signed up and sent to Cleveland, Tennessee by the

A MESSAGE OF WARNING (Continued from page 1)

was raised. On account of this misapplication of funds rightly belonging to the Church of God Orphanage and Childrens Home, they were left on December 1, without a penny in the proper constituted treasury to pay bills and accounts already accumulated under the former management. Without making any assertions as to the guilt or innocence of any one connected, I merely appeal to the honest fair minded people to investigate and find the causes for these peculiar moves and to know the facts before you act or do something that you will later regret, and deprive you of the privileges that hitherto you have enjoyed.

Since the beginning of this article, and just this A. M., I have read letters involving three parties in the schemes above referred to, but two of these parties are already under charges and are expected to meet the tribunal of the Church at a very early date.

I hope that none of our readers will be unduly alarmed over the situation, as we are not the only people that have had trouble of like nature, in fact, it is said, "That the first scandal of the early Church was over the finance." And God took care of the situation, and it wasn't long until the offenders, if members at all, were dead members. I am sure the best thing for every saint to do is to look to God, go down before Him in earnest prayer and ask Him to protect the interest of His own. This, He has never failed to do.

Now is the time for every member to earnestly search and know if they are really founded upon the rock and in the Church that Jesus said He would build, or does our future depend on the faithfulness or unfaithfulness of some individual? Or have we reached beyond the revelation of flesh and blood? Now is the time for us to know if we have really heard from heaven and that God has really revealed to us the Church that His Son said He would build.

I hope that every reader will accept this in the same good spirit that it is written, with the understanding that it is done only for their protection and for the interest and love that we have for the future prosperity of the Church of God and its members and friends. If it were not for the responsibility that I feel

22nd of July, well, I felt myself becoming influenced to write a letter in the paper, because I had already learned of some plans laid for the 24th of July. Now just such schemes and workings as this have influenced me to stand where I do today.

Perry Influence Me?

When I went to Florida God sent me, I am persuaded that no one doubts this. It is true, I almost quailed under the task. At least I thought it most too great for me. With nearly all the preachers and churches standing for Brother Perry I knew that if God didn't help me they were gone. Brother Perry and I lived in Tampa. I would go to hear him preach. I treated him like a gentleman. He would come to my room often, but I told him in plain words that I had come to take care of the interests of the Church of God. So his association, kind words and pleasant look didn't keep me from doing my duty. Sam C. Perry respects me today and has spoken well of me though I didn't yield to his desires.

Brethren of the Church of God, I want to assure you that though I am associated with men that can make great speeches, no fair speech or smile or good looks has influenced me, only plain facts and figures are the causes.

Now I will not write much this time. The report of our council will fully explain the situation. This council was held by E. Haynes as moderator after the former chairman had vacated the chair. This makes the actions of this council entirely legal.

Let me insist on every minister reading this report, then reading it to their church. This work was done with no ill-will to anyone, but with a hope of a fair adjustment of matters in question. It was done prayerfully, not hastily but with good will and wishes for the party concerned, but especially for the best interests of the Church of God. We feel like all unprejudiced minds will read it and profit by it. We dismissed the session, retaining Brother Haynes as chairman till matters in question can be adjusted.

as editor and publisher of the official organ of the Church and the further interest above referred to, I am sure it would be more pleasant to me personally not to deal with the critical problems herein referred to. I do this not on my own individual responsibility, but as an official of the Church of God.

In conclusion I will say that there has been many men that would give the world if they could blot out two years of the history of their lives, yea, even two days, and then have the privilege of living their life over again. But these two years with its deeds can never be blotted out, but will be fully recognized at the great judgment morning where every one shall appear and give an account of their deeds.

It would be well for you to read and carefully consider the Report of Investigation, Proceedings of Elders Council and Correspondence that convened in Cleveland, Tenn., June 12-21, 1923 which appears elsewhere in this issue.

IN MEMORY OF

STINES

Sister Sarah Stines left this world, Sunday, June 24, 1923, to be with Jesus. She was converted when eleven years of age and joined the Church of God five years ago. She was a loyal member.

The funeral service was held by the state overseer, Brother Charles Randall, and the remains were laid to rest in the city cemetery to wait the resurrection of our beloved Lord.

J. M. Pence,
Somerset, Ky.

FOWLER

The death angel visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Fowler of Moorhead, Miss., June 14, 1923, and claimed their little son, Thomas, age 1 year, 6 months and 2 weeks.

The home circle is broken and the place that little Thomas filled in the heart of father, mother and grandparents is vacant in a sense, yet the love for him has not departed. Some day the circle will again be completed in heaven.

A friend,
Susie K. Towary,
Moorhead, Miss.

PEARSON

On June 20 the death angel visited the home of Brother John and Sister Lizzie Pearson and took from them their little son, Robert Dyer, age 5 years, 6 months and 1 day.

Little Robert was out in the field with his father and a mule kicked him. Several times the saints prayed for him but God in His wisdom saw best to take little Robert home to be with Jesus. He lived forty-eight hours after he was hurt.
Little Robert leaves to mourn,

father, mother, six brothers, six sisters, a grandmother and other loved ones. We weep not as those who have no hope for we know he is at rest forever.

The funeral was conducted by Brother Oscar Tollison and his little body laid to rest in the Church of God cemetery. The floral offerings were beautiful.

Weep not, dear ones, for little Robert is resting, sweetly resting on that bright and happy shore. And we expect to meet him when this toilsome life is o'er.

One who loved him,
Mrs. Florence Pace.

BATTLEFIELDS

Brother W. J. Bogg of Eldorado, Ill., came to Dorrisville and preached two weeks. The Lord blessed in giving out the Word. Three were saved, three sanctified and two received the Holy Ghost. We observed the Lord's supper and washed the saints' feet. The revival fire is still burning and souls are praying through, reports Effie Foster.

The Lord has been blessing His people at Piedmont, S. C. Sixteen were saved, seventeen sanctified, nine filled with the Holy Ghost, twelve added to the Church and twenty-five baptized in water. We observed the Lord's supper and feet washing the last night of the service. The people here are receiving the light on the Church. Four have received the Holy Ghost at home, reports M. A. Nichols.

SPECIAL NOTICE

This is to notify you that I. G. Roberts is no longer a minister in the Church of God and has refused to give up his papers. He is carrying papers in the Original Church, also Church of God. When he goes to the Original church he has license to preach there and when he goes to the Church of God he claims to have a right to preach there. So beware of him as he is doing nothing but trying to cause division.

Zeno Tharp,
Cleveland, Tenn.

SPANISH TRACTS

A word to our Spanish members and friends, we are printing some new tracts in Spanish and have some others on hand. A list of which we will give below:

- 1 EL HA DERRAMADO ESTO—QUE AHORA VEIS Y OIS
He has shed forth this.
- 2 TOM GILSON, Y SU NINA
Tom Gilson and His Little Girl
- 3 LA DOCTRINA QUE SOSTENE
The Doctrine that Holds
- 4 CARLOS CULSON
Charles Coulson
- 5 ENSEÑANZAS DE LA IGLESIA DE DIOS
Teaching of the Church of God
- 6 NO PODRIMOS SABER
We Would Not Know
- 7 EL HIJO ATTESTA
The Infidel Son
- 8 LAS SEÑALES QUE NIGUEN
The Signs That Follow
- 9 EL TULLIDO TOMAS
Cripple Tom
- 10 BUENAS NUEVAS PARA LOS ENFERMOS
Good News for the Sick
- 11 ¿CUANTAS IGLESIAS RECONOCE LA BIBLIA Y CUALES SON SUS NOMBRES?
How Many Churches?
- 12 ¿PROQUE VO SOY UN MIEMBRO
Why I am a Member

State Overseers

Ala., G. C. Dunn, Box 38, Pratt City, Ala.
Ark., E. C. Scarbrough, Nettleton, Ark.
Bah., Milton Padgett, Nassau, N. P.
Col., O. R. Rouse, Raton, New Mexico.
Fla., John L. Stephens, 2803-18th Ave., Tampa, Fla.
Ga., S. W. Latimer, Spring Place, Ga.
Ill., S. O. Gillaspie, Olney, Ill.
Ind., J. N. Hurley, Box 300, Terre Haute, Ind.
Kans., E. L. Pinkley, Couch, Mo.
Ky., C. H. Randall, Box 339, Somerset, Ky.
La., T. A. Richard, Kentwood, La.
Md., M. J. Viney, Cantwell, Mo.
Mich., E. Haynes, 5686-16th St., Detroit, Mich.
Miss., E. C. Rider, Blount, Miss.
Mo., J. M. Viney, Cantwell, Mo.
New Mex., O. R. Rouse, Raton, New Mex.
N. C., Geo. T. Brouayer, R. 2, Middlesex, N. C.
North Dak., John Attey, Box 426, Golden Valley, N. D.
Ohio, W. G. Rembert, 419 E. Union St., Circleville, Ohio.
Okla., John Burk, Sapulpa, Okla.
Pa., H. W. Poter, R. 52, Hilliards, Pa.
S. C., J. W. Culpepper, R. 3, Lake Park, Ga.
Tenn., M. W. Letsinger, R. 1, Byington, Tenn.
Tex., H. N. Scoggins, Box 193, Ladonia, Tex.
Va., J. A. Davis, J. Coeburn, Va., Gen. Del.
W. Va., E. L. Simmons, Cleveland, Tenn.
Thos. J. Richardson, 1700-6 ave., N. W. Miami, Fla., overseer of colored work.

SPECIAL NOTICE

This is to notify all the churches in the state of Florida and everywhere that C. T. Anderson has been restrained from the ministry, or any official action as he is misrepresenting and sowing discord. Acts of the Supreme Judges, also of the State Board of Florida. John L. Stephens, overseer of Florida.

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Proceedings of Elders Council and Correspondence

INTRODUCTION

At the session of the Elders Council that convened, Sept. 6, 1922, some lengthy consideration was given to complaints of irregularities at the Headquarters of the Church of God. It was decided by the council to select an investigating committee, to hear complaints and adjust differences and make such investigations as they deemed necessary. F. J. Lee, J. B. Ellis and J. S. Llewellyn, were duly selected by the Council as the committee.

After the committee was selected, they met together from time to time for the consideration of the matters in question. It was finally unanimously decided by the committee to employ a competent auditor to examine the books and records of Headquarters, in order that they might make an intelligent report at the next convening of the Elders Council. The Auditor proceeded with his work, made up his report, and submitted the same to the investigating committee who had engaged his service. A. J. Tomlinson was immediately notified of the findings of the Auditor. Then after some considerable delay he returned to Cleveland, Tenn., on May 7, and on May 8, a copy of the Auditor's report was submitted to him for examination and reply. He stated that it would require some time for examination and consideration so his reply was deferred to later date.

It was decided by the Executive Council, composed of A. J. Tomlinson, General Overseer, F. J. Lee, Superintendent of Educational Department and J. S. Llewellyn, Editor and Publisher, to call the council of twelve Elders to convene in Cleveland, Tennessee, on June 12, 1923, for to consider of the matters in question.

It was also decided by the Executive Council that the Seventy Elders also should have the privilege of attending this Council.

The council convened at the time appointed in the Church of God Auditorium. Prior to the real opening for business, A. J. Tomlinson proceeded to make some comment on the Auditor's report and explanation of the alleged shortage. Immediately after the council was declared in session for business or in open conference, apparently according to a well understood plan, C. T. Anderson of Florida, addressed the moderator, who was immediately recognized by the moderator. He proceeded with some introductory remarks and filed complaints against M. S. Lemons, J. B. Ellis and J. S. Llewellyn. The Secretary then read the complaints.

Then the moderator, A. J. Tomlinson, formerly opened the subject for discussion for those only who favored the complaints as read, and for hours these three men were subjected to the most severest criticism and slanderous insinuation. All seemed to be welcomed by the moderator, but no one was permitted to speak in their favor or defense. Finally after hours had been spent in this very unbecoming way, and no other to be found to speak against the accused, the way then opened for the accused to defend themselves under the most strictest ban with specific instructions to confine their remarks to their own defense and were not even permitted to speak of any circumstance that lead up to, or surrounded the complaints filed. The accused and their friends finally seeing that they were not allowed equal liberty with their accusers, submitted their case to the remaining Council of Elders for decision without further defense. The Elders then retired to form their conclusions, and brought back their decision that the complaints were filed prematurely. A number of the Elders contended that the complaints were filed illegally and designed only for the purpose of putting to silence the three Elders, and to block the way of the investigation, and to divert the meeting and its proceedings contrary to the purpose for which it was called. (The three accused were later declared to be EXONERATED). After the three accused were liberated and permitted to proceed with their official duties and exercise their privileges, the meeting then proceeded to the business and the purpose for which it was called.

The moderator, A. J. Tomlinson, then on account of the investigation vacated the chair as chairman and took his seat in the congregation. The council selected Efford Haynes, of Michigan, to preside. Then the investigating committee's report was read by J. S. Llewellyn and filed the same with the Clerk of the Council with the exhibits referred to, which was a copy of the Auditor's report of the examination of the books and records of A. J. Tomlinson as kept at the Headquarters of the Church of God, and two copies of minutes of the General Assembly. He then proceeded to a brief explanation and review of the circumstances leading up to the questions at issue. Then after the facts and circumstances were laid before the council, A. J. Tomlinson and his son, Homer A. Tomlinson, proceeded at length to explain matters brought in question. After which, the questions were referred or left with the Council of Elders for their final conclusion and decision, which is hereinafter set forth, which articles will best speak for themselves.

REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

To the Council of Elders of the Churches of God to convene in the City of Cleveland, Tennessee, on June 12, 1923—Greeting:

We, your investigating committee, beg leave to submit the following report:

After meeting together from time to time to consider the matters for which we were appointed by this honorable body, we unanimously decided in the latter part of November, 1922, that we would be unable to present to you an intelligent report without the aid of a competent auditor. After some consideration, we employed Lee H. Battle Audit Co., of Chattanooga, Tennessee, who by their representative proceeded with the examination of the books and records of the business headquarters of the Church of God and made their report to us which we herewith submit to you, marked exhibit A, to this our report, and made a part of said report.

The said audit report will best speak for itself. A copy of said report was submitted to A. J. Tomlinson for his consideration and reply which we presume he will make to this honorable body which should claim our attention and consideration along with the said audit report and the report of this committee.

The auditor's examination did not deal particularly with the misapplication of funds, which is to say, funds used contrary to the purpose for which it was raised. We find that approximately, \$31,000.00 has been misapplied, and seems to have been used contrary to the purpose for which it was raised and in violation of our long cherished principle that "the tithes are for the ministry only." However, \$3,973.23 of the above amount was orphanage money.

In the General Overseer's Evangelical financial report which appears on page 52 (of the Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual Assembly) as follows: "The Magazine has paid for itself for the seven months and about \$60.00 for the House." This appears in the minutes of the General Assembly, which convened at Cleveland, Tennessee, November 1-7, 1922, which was written on the original copy of his report in his own hand. The references and

the minutes referred to are made a part of our report and marked exhibit B, to this our report. We further find contained in a letter under date of March 17, 1923, the following statement: "The Faithful Standard has not only been self supporting, but has shown a little profit about \$200.00 a month, after paying all expenses, interest on investment, and wages." This estimate conflicts with the report to the Assembly. The difference in the two statements amounting to \$1,340.00. The letter referred to purports to be from A. J. Tomlinson which we file and make a part of our report, marked exhibit C.

We find in the latter part of the third paragraph of the same letter above referred to the following statement with reference to the Bible Correspondence School, "When Brother Lee assumed the superintendence of the Bible Correspondence School at Cleveland, there were outstanding accounts of about \$28,000.00." Our investigation determines the fact that there were approximately \$5000.00 outstanding accounts in favor of this department and a liberal estimate that not less than \$3,000.00 of these accounts are of no value and do not represent an asset of that department. We are informed that in consultation with the board of directors of this same department that A. J. Tomlinson stated to them that there were \$11,000.00 outstanding accounts. The three statements that apparently conflict with each other, need explanation which we are unable to give.

We further find that since the year 1920 that A. J. Tomlinson put into operation a financial scheme called Evangel Loan Fund or Exchange and Indemnity Department. Your committee is of the opinion that such a department or scheme was never authorized by the Church of God or its General Assembly, neither was it operated according to any legal constituted authority by the Church or its General Assembly. See resolution beginning on page 68 and ending on page 69 in the Minutes of the fifteenth Annual Assembly of the Church of God which convened, November 3-9, 1920, to which reference is here made. The said resolution being made a part of this report. The said minute is filed as exhibit D to this our report. We are not of the opinion that the Church is legally responsible for the obligation of this department. The moral responsibility will be for you to determine. As further support of our view with reference to this department we fail to find where this department was ever constituted or authorized or where A. J. Tomlinson ever included this department in his financial report. We further find that these certificates were signed by him as Editor and Publisher which no such official position was ever created or brought into existence in the Church of God or its General Assemblies, until the Assembly which convened in Cleveland, Tennessee, November 1-7, 1922 which action appears in the minutes of said Assembly, pages 49 and 50 to which reference is here made and filed as exhibit E, with this report and made a part of same.

We, your committee, respectfully recommend that a fair, square adjustment be made of all of the matters in question, whether contained or pointed out in this report or otherwise, and that proper steps be taken in this council that will guarantee the just rights of the people and a square deal for all parties concerned, or in any wise affected. The welfare of the Church requires it.

We humbly submit to this honorable body this report, "With malice toward none, and with charity for all, Let us strive to do the right, as God shall give us to see the right." "Let us hold fast the faith that right makes might, and that in that faith let us dare to do our duty to the end as we understand it."—Lincoln.

Respectfully submitted,

Investigating Committee. J. S. Llewellyn.
J. B. Ellis.
F. J. Lee.

ELDERS DECISION

Copy of Record of Proceedings and Conclusion reached in the investigation of A. J. Tomlinson are as follows:

Cash not accounted for which amounts to \$14,141.83 is considered a shortage. Furthermore the investigating committee is instructed to continue their work; they are further instructed to have the assistance of the General Secretary, also the privilege of calling the auditor and paying him for his service. The further investigation to include the checking of all the check stubs available with the daybooks, then if any are missing look up the checks, then foot up the daybooks, and see that the total is correct. If they find any checks not on the day book that has been paid out by Brother Tomlinson, they are to give him credit on the ledger account on the above. If Brother A. J. Tomlinson shall be able to produce anything to show where he has paid out in cash which is not on the daybook, such as receipts or receipted bills or other written evidence, he is to be given credit for all such items on presentation of such sufficient proof.

The auditor's advice filed and made exhibit A, under date of June 16, 1923 was accepted and made a part of record.

Approved and passed.

The explanation given with reference to the circular letters, marked exhibit C, are not satisfactory.

Adopted and passed.

We accept and approve that part of the committee's report that refers to the Loan and Indemnity department and decide it to be illegal and unauthorized by the General Assembly. It is an established fact from figures that the money has not been used in the Church of God Publishing House. This was unanimously accepted by all the Elders with the exception of Geo. T. Brouayer who files no objection but is not sufficiently clear in his mind regarding same.

S. O. Gillaspie gave his approval and consent at the time it passed, then later changed his mind and concluded possibly that it might be legal. Exceptions were taken to Brother Gillaspie's explanation and regarded as illegal and not to be considered as any embarrassment to the action taken by the Elders above referred to.

J. S. Llewellyn.

Brother Geo. T. Brouayer has the privilege of filing a written objection.

Passed.

Bible Training School by Correspondence

After making a careful investigation of the circumstances surrounding the Bible Training School and the prospective new institution of like nature which is being planned in New York by A. J. and Homer A. Tomlinson should be considered as antagonistic and embarrassing to the one owned and controlled by the Church of God at Cleveland, Tenn. It is further understood that those who aid in any way in the established aforesaid institution in New York City shall be construed as unfriendly and disloyal to the Church in its various departments. It is further understood

that this council in no case give their endorsement to said institution. It is further ordered by this council that immediate steps be taken for the correction of the Copyright of a portion of the lessons of the Bible Training School, owned and controlled by the Church of God which should have been continued to be copyrighted in the name of Bible Training School, owned by the Church of God at Cleveland, Tenn. It is further understood and so construed that the purposes and intentions and motives in copyrighting the publications owned by the Church were impure, unjust and unauthorized and should be immediately corrected.

Approved by the Elders in Council the 19th day of June, 1923.

E. J. Boehmer,
Clerk of Council.

Cleveland, Tenn.

A. J. Tomlinson,

Dear Brother:

In compliance with your request I herewith submit to you a copy of the record of proceedings of the investigation, conducted by the investigating committee and the Elders Council to this date, together with their conclusion up to this time and order for continuance.

Very sincerely yours,
E. J. Boehmer (clerk).

Conclusion of the Council of Elders of the Investigation of A. J. Tomlinson

We accept and approve the report of the investigating committee with the exhibits thereto. We have further concluded that the shortage in his accounts as shown by the examination of the books and records is \$14,141.83 except the provision herein-after set forth.

We further order and advise that the committee proceed further with their investigation and check all check stubs with daybooks, then if any are missing, look up the checks. Then foot up the daybooks and see that there is no mistake and that the totals are correct. If there are any checks not on the daybook that was paid out for the Church, he shall be entitled to credit for total of such checks not on book.

If he can produce anything to show where he has paid out cash which is not on the daybooks, such as cancelled checks, or receipted bills, he is entitled to credit for all such items.

The committee may call the auditor for further assistance and is authorized to pay the same. Also they may have the assistance of the General Secretary in their further examination and investigation. This examination is to proceed at once and the final conclusion reached and settlement made at the earliest date possible.

We further advise that the explanation given in the investigation with reference to the circular letters sent out by the Faithful Standard Publishing Co., and those promoting the same are not satisfactory.

We further advise that the circular letters or a portion of them sent out by the Bible Correspondence School and that feature of them that was brought into question, that the explanations given were not satisfactory.

We further advise and so conclude that inasmuch as the attempted action and complaints filed on the night of June 12, against J. B. Ellis, M. S. Lemons, and J. S. Llewellyn was indirect connection with this investigation and designed only for the purpose of hindering and blocking said investigation; that we, here in conference assembled, do declare said complaint to be illegal, arbitrary and coercive and for the purpose of intimidating the council in this investigation for which cause and purpose the council was called.

We further advise that the council and its committee proceed to safeguard the interest of the Church untrampled in their action.

We further advise that A. J. Tomlinson proceed no further with his official duties or ministerial activities until a satisfactory agreement or settlement can be reached for the adjustment of the matters in question.

IMPEACHMENT

To the Supreme Judges—Court of Justice

M. S. Lemons, F. J. Lee, J. S. Llewellyn, T. L. McLain, S. W. Latimer, J. B. Ellis and E. J. Boehmer presiding.

We, the undersigned, respectfully submit and file this article of impeachment against A. J. Tomlinson as General Overseer and Chairman of the General Assembly and member of the Supreme Council by virtue of his office as General Overseer, also Bishop in the Church of God, and Geo. T. Brouayer and S. O. Gillaspie, both members of the Supreme Council and State Overseers and Bishops in the Church of God, and C. T. Anderson, Evangelist, in the Church of God. We file this article of impeachment and charges as herein set forth against the above named parties, seeking immediate relief from their unlawful and illegal practices as such ministers and officials as above indicated, and for the reasons hereinafter set forth.

The jurisdiction of any State official body or any other council claiming jurisdiction over matters herein referred to hereby waived and immediate relief sought at the bar of Supreme Judges—Court of Justice, whose names appear as such judges for the year 1923, on page 106 of the Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual Assembly of the Church of God, held at Cleveland, Tennessee, November 1-7, 1922.

For authority for the preceding reference is here made to Article Five, Section One, also Article Four, Section Eleven of the Constitution as appears in the Minutes above referred to.

This article of impeachment and the charges herein contained is filed for and on behalf of ourselves and all other officials, ministers, and members of the Church of God not connected or allied with the above named officials in the various official capacities, also as the next friend to all other parties concerned or effected by their disloyal and official misconduct as contained in the complaints and charges as follows: which are taken up separately, which are to apply to each party as indicated: Against A. J. Tomlinson.

First—For failing to turn over to the proper officials all funds that should have been in his hands at the close of the General Assembly, November, 1922.

Second—For mis-appropriating contrary to the purpose, for which it was raised, approximately \$3,900.00 of Orphanage money and thereby depriving them of the necessary support and leaving the treasury destitute of funds to meet urgent bills made by him.

Third—For mis-applying other funds amounting to several

thousand dollars contrary to the purpose for which it was raised and the intention for which it was to be applied.

Fourth—For ignoring and refusing to discharge his official duties as General Overseer and member of the Executive Council, by refusing to cooperate in the manner prescribed by the General Assembly.

Fifth—For forfeiting agreements made in Supreme Council and Executive Council and ignoring the same.

Sixth—For copywriting certain publications belonging to the Church of God in his own name and for permitting his son, Homer A. Tomlinson, to copyright a part of the lessons of the Bible Correspondence School owned by the Church of God, and for undertaking to aid him in establishing legal claims for publications owned by the Church of God, after making repeated statements that it was the property of the Church.

Seventh—For making misleading statements or allowing same to be made over his signature that were calculated to unduly influence and financially injure any who might be influenced by such statements.

Eighth—For making conflicting reports to the General Assembly and the board of directors of the Bible Training School and prospective investors.

Ninth—For attempting and undertaking to establish other publishing interests and correspondence school that is calculated to be in opposition and antagonistic to that owned and controlled by the Church of God.

Tenth—For failing to account for a considerable shortage in his accounts and failing to give satisfactory explanation for same.

Eleventh—For employing unfair, unjust, and illegal means to block the way of a fair investigation of his affairs and business relations with the Church by circulating petitions and framing charges against certain ministers and officials who sought to protect the interest of the Church and its members and friends.

Twelfth—For unbecoming conduct in presiding as chairman over a council in which he himself was a party to the litigation. And showing partiality by allowing those favored to him to slander and criticize in a very unbecoming manner without restraint and then refusing the opposite side equal liberty in defending themselves against such evil and unjust use and abuse. It is further alleged that on account of this unfair and unjust conduct it has rendered him unworthy of the honor of presiding over such a meeting and that it has brought shame and disgrace on the dignity of the position that he undertakes to occupy.

Thirteenth—For condemning some of the rules of government as passed and outlined by the General Assembly in its regular session and allowing those under him to do the same and using his influence in a very disloyal manner against the action of the General Assembly, while said rules and principles of government are in full force and effect.

Fourteenth—For refusing to cooperate with those associated with him in lifting the burdens of debt off the Church of God Publishing House but at the same time using his energies and influence against it and causing others so to do and promoting his own private interest by putting on a stock selling campaign, for the promotion of a separate enterprise now owned by the Church but calculated to be antagonistic to the interest and welfare of the Church in its various departments. This was done while on salary paid him by the Church of God. In view of this fact it should be so construed that it is a misappropriation of his time, energy, and influence which should have been used in favor of the Church of God in its various departments, according to agreements made by him in Executive Council.

Fifteenth—For holding secret councils and conspiring and seeking to influence others to rebel and oppose certain actions of the General Assembly and to embarrass certain positions created and filled by the said General Assembly.

The said Geo. T. Brouayer and S. O. Gillaspie in their positions above described are charged with aiding and abetting the said A. J. Tomlinson in the principal part of his illegal acts above referred to, and embarrassing the deliberations of the council in their efforts to investigate the serious complaints against A. J. Tomlinson, also by manifesting a contentious spirit which is foreign to our Holy Religion, also for aiding him in promoting a private enterprise against the interest of the Church and its general welfare.

The said C. T. Anderson is also charged with acting in a very unbecoming manner by aiding and becoming a party to a conspiracy to thwart the purposes of the Council in the investigation of the alleged shortage in the accounts of A. J. Tomlinson. It is further alleged that he has acted in a very unbecoming manner by instituting illegal proceedings against certain officials of the Church, to embarrass them in the discharge of their official duties in protecting the interest of the Church and procuring for its ministers, membership and friends their just rights. It is further alleged that he has conducted himself in such an unbecoming manner as to render him unworthy of the honor and rank of an Evangelist in the Church of God.

For and on account of the above complaints, we respectfully plead and seek for relief from further illegal practices and that the said A. J. Tomlinson be restrained from further official acts and ministerial activities and any interference whatsoever until the final termination of this action. And that the General Secretary shall be restrained and so advised to withhold any further compensation for his service until the final termination of this litigation.

That the said Geo. T. Brouayer and S. O. Gillaspie be restrained from any further official action or ministerial activities until the final termination of this litigation.

That the said C. T. Anderson shall be restrained from acting or serving in any capacity as a minister or evangelist until the final termination of this litigation.

The undersigned believe that the above complaints and charges are true in substance and fact but part of them are not of their own personal knowledge but from the best information obtainable.

It is plead and insisted that this honorable body proceed with the judicial investigation of all of the complaints and any others that may develop in said investigation and give to the Church such relief as may be asked in this article, also such relief as may be found necessary for the protection of the general interest of the Church of God and the rights of its ministers, members and friends.

We further ask that the clerk of this judicial body serve a copy of these complaints on the defendants above mentioned and that this board of justice arrange for an early hearing, the welfare of the Church requiring it.

A. Gann.
T. S. Payne.
E. Haynes.

Filed June 21, 1923, 9:15 P. M.

FINAL

We, the Elders Council of the Church of God, with business headquarters at Cleveland, Tennessee in conference assembled

on the 21st day of June at 9:20 P. M. agree and pass the following:

Whereas, we have been in conference from day to day for the consideration and investigation of the accounts of A. J. Tomlinson who has attempted in various ways to explain the shortage referred to in these proceedings and to this date has failed to give satisfactory explanation or reparation. We, now in the closing hours of this conference, express our deep regret for the unfavorable situation that has developed on account of this seeming unfortunate affair.

We heartily commend and endorse the work of the investigating committee and their exceeding liberality toward Brother Tomlinson and the many earnest efforts that have been put forth by them and other members of this council.

After considering some slight objections referred to in these records as exceptions taken by Geo. T. Brouayer, and S. O. Gillaspie and the contentious spirit that they manifested and the unreasonableness of their objections and their refusal to accept the facts, we, the moderator and Elders in council, do overrule said exceptions and regard them as illegal and not well founded and on account of being so overruled are forever hereafter to be regarded as though no exceptions were taken.

On account of the conclusion and decision of this council disqualifying A. J. Tomlinson as chairman until such time as a satisfactory agreement and adjustment can be reached on the matters in question, and in view of the fact that he relinquished his right as such chairman and voluntarily surrendered same to Efford Haynes after being selected by this council, we therefore, in view of these facts and failure to this date on his account of our reaching a satisfactory settlement, retain the said Efford Haynes as chairman of this council until the final termination and full acceptance of this council of the terms and agreements on the matters in question.

At the conclusion of this session we adjourn to meet on the 25th day of October, 1923 after leaving the matters of further consideration and adjustment in the hands of the investigating committee with power to act.

The provisions referred to in the conclusion of the Elders Council to give credit for any paid check or receipted bill in no case is to be construed now or hereafter of any doubt of the correctness of the auditor's report, but on account of the possibility of the bookkeeper failing to record some of the items. This is done only from the sense of fairness and liberality and to give them the benefit of their own mistakes. In view of the fact that the auditor could not take them into consideration on account of them not being on the book.

We deplore the unpleasant situation that developed in the early part of this council as a result of an effort to block the investigation, that of charges being filed against J. B. Ellis, M. S. Lemons and J. S. Llewellyn who suffered unwarranted criticism because of their efforts to protect the interest of the Church and its membership. They were fully exonerated by this council.

Reaffirming our firm belief in the principles and practices, government and teaching of the Church of God, we herewith, submit the facts as found by our investigation to the judgment of the fair-minded people with the earnest plea that you be not soon shaken by letters or communication that do not contain the facts, but withhold your judgment or any action until you have the whole matter before you and above all stand true to the Church of God and the principles of right and justice.

Letters

Cleveland, Tenn.
June 25, 1923.

J. S. Llewellyn,
2524 Gaut St.,
Cleveland, Tenn.
Dear Brother:

Since the business that was to come before the Council which was called in session June 12th, was not completed, and considering the matter of dismissal, I conclude that it has not yet closed, but since the brethren have dispersed I have decided to give them a little space of time to come together again and finish up the business. Therefore, I send out this special notice and call.

You will be expected to meet again on July 24th, 1923, in Cleveland, Tenn., the hour to be named after the arrival of the councilors.

There are some matters of the utmost importance in the interest of the Church of God to be considered. By giving this much time I trust you will be able to make all arrangements so it will not unduly inconvenience you to be in Cleveland at the time named above.

With due regards, I remain

Yours truly,
A. J. Tomlinson.

Cleveland, Tenn.
June 26, 1923.

A. J. Tomlinson,
Dear Brother:

We, the undersigned members of the Executive Council, acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 25, 1923, in which you undertake to call the Council of twelve Elders to re-convene on the 24th of July, 1923.

We, constituting a majority of the said Executive Council, do not agree or concur in the action that you undertake for the following reasons:

First—Because the General Assembly has advised and so ordered that the Executive Council, "Shall council together on all matters of general interest to the Church of God." See page 49 of the minutes of the Seventeenth Annual Assembly. We regard these matters and the questions at issue as of general interest to the Church in general. This order of the Assembly you seem to have overlooked or undertake to ignore.

Second—Because the Council of Elders was called by the said Executive Council to convene in the city of Cleveland, Tennessee, June 12, 1923, for the well understood purpose of investigating and considering the report of the investigating committee of your official conduct and the alleged shortage in your accounts as shown by the auditor's report of examination of your books. After meeting together from time to time until the night of June 21 the said Council adjourned in good order to re-convene the 25th day of October, 1923 after leaving the matters in question in the hands of the investigating committee with power to act in the final settlement with you. This is contained in the article adopted in the final session of the said Elders Council, called FINAL which is of record in the clerk's office of the said Elders Council.

Third—Because the said Elders Council ordered and so decided and advised that you discontinue your official duties and ministerial activities until a satisfactory adjustment could be made of the matters in question.

Fourth—Because the remainder of the questions clustering around the investigation was referred to the investigating committee which was to allow you the privilege of producing any cancelled checks or receipted bills not on your books. The committee stands ready to consider any question of credit of the nature above mentioned and are very anxious to go with you into

the matter looking forward to a peaceful settlement of the matters in question.

Fifth—Because impeachment charges were filed against you, Geo. T. Brouayer, and S. O. Gillaspie in due form on the 21st of June, 1923. The Judges are ready to convene at such time as may best suit your convenience and hear whatever plan of defense you may wish to make against the complaints filed. A copy of the complaints is filed with the clerk of the board of Judges. The same document of complaints contains charges against C. T. Anderson. Contained in said complaints are restraints sought for the discontinuance of official duties and ministerial activities until the final termination of the litigation. The said prayer for restraint was granted by the board of Judges and the conclusion or a peaceable adjustment of the questions at issue. On account of said complaints, duly filed as above stated, we conclude that neither you, Geo. T. Brouayer, nor S. O. Gillaspie has any just or legal right to act or serve in any official capacity until the complaints herein referred to have been duly disposed of. We, therefore, would appreciate some expression from you as to the best suited time for the hearing, also if you wish to continue the search further as to cancelled checks or receipted bills representing cash paid out by you for the Church and not on your books. We want to re-assure you that we will take pleasure in cooperating in any fair and just manner to bring about a satisfactory settlement that will insure all parties affected and concerned, a square deal.

We are at a loss to know of your purpose in undertaking to independently call a council of the Elders without consultation with other two members of the Executive Council, even if there had been no complaints filed to render you ineligible for such an official act.

In view of the facts and circumstances above referred to, we are of the opinion that you have no legal right to re-convene the Council of Elders and for the reasons herein contained, we are unable to agree or give our consent to such a move but do insist that we proceed in the manner already prescribed by the decisions and conclusions reached by the recent Elders Council, with the earnest hope that a satisfactory agreement may be reached that will guarantee the just rights of all parties concerned, and thereby restore harmony and good will throughout the Church, in order that this cause that we all love so well be no longer hindered.

Very sincerely yours,

Members of Executive Council. { F. J. Lee.
J. S. Llewellyn.

Cleveland, Tenn.
July 5, 1923.

A. J. Tomlinson,
Cleveland, Tenn.
Dear Brother:

Referring to the letter to you under date of June 26, 1923, signed by F. J. Lee and J. S. Llewellyn, members of Executive Council to which you have made no reply, we the undersigned, investigating committee, will again call your attention to the proposition left open for you to produce any cancelled checks or receipted bills representing cash paid out by you for the Church of God, that your bookkeeper failed to put on the books. As we were instructed to proceed with this feature at once, we have concluded that if you desire to continue the search further or to produce anything further, that it must be done on or before July 9, and on your failure to do this, the committee will take it for granted that you do not desire to go into the matter further, or file any other claims for credit on the shortage as shown by the Auditor's report. The Committee stands ready to consider any claim that you may have for consideration in harmony with the decision of the recent Elders Council that convened in Cleveland, Tenn., June 12-21, 1923.

The said Elders Council vested in this committee power and authority to act in the final settlement with you, and by virtue of this authority, we feel that some steps should be taken at once to bring about a settlement or satisfactory agreement. It has been rumored that you had a proposition for settlement. If so this committee would take pleasure in considering any proposition that you may have, looking to a peaceful settlement of the matters in question. On your failure to submit your proposition or settlement by July 9, 1923, this committee will take it for granted and so construe that you have none to offer and the matter will stand according to the decisions and conclusions of the said Elders Council.

This Committee is informed that it is your purpose and intention to totally ignore all the conclusions and decisions of the said Elders Council to which you cheerfully submitted your case. This Committee is of a firm belief that the conclusions reached and decisions made by the said Elders Council are legal and binding and should be observed, and the terms complied with.

This Committee on and after July 9, 1923 will feel at liberty to make such reports to those to whom they are responsible, as the circumstances may demand. They will further feel at liberty to take such other steps as the circumstances may dictate, to bring about a satisfactory adjustment of all the matters in question.

Very sincerely yours,

Investigating Committee. { F. J. Lee.
J. B. Ellis.
J. S. Llewellyn.

AFTERWORD

We regret very much that the circumstances really demand the full report of the recent Elders Council that convened in the city of Cleveland, Tenn., June 12-21, 1923. There has also been requests from almost every quarter to know the proceedings and the conclusions reached. These requests being so numerous that we are unable to furnish the full information, otherwise than this method employed.

In order to avoid future embarrassment, we would advise that all the churches and their treasurers continue to be faithful and act in harmony with the plans as outlined by the General Assembly and the Elders Council, which is the same that has been in full force and effect for sometime, without any change or modification.

Ten of the twelve elders stand together for a fair square, honest, businesslike settlement for the unity and harmony throughout the church and are in full and hearty accord with all the teachings, principles and practices as outlined by the General Assembly and accepted by the local churches, and that the just rights of the people should be protected in every possible way. They do not feel that they were influenced by any person or persons, but their conclusions are reached from the facts and figures recently developed.

I am sure there is no one that regrets the unfavorable situation more than the investigating committee and those associated with them. They do not feel that they are responsible for what the auditor found in the examination of the records, but the parties alone should be held responsible for this unfavorable situation who caused the records to appear as they did. The committee deeply regrets that everything didn't check up to the penny and guilt-edge in every respect, for it seems that we would have been so much better off if we could have avoided the unpleasant situation that has developed. The committee has only rendered this service in answer to the call of the Elders Council, who duly appointed them to this service.